



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 21.14 Thursday, April 2, 2015

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

F R E E

Court Watching:

White's sentencing postponed until April 10

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Thomas White, 47, the disbarred Belleville attorney who in December pled no-contest to 20 felony charges surrounding embezzlement of more than \$1.9 million from local clients, was scheduled to be sentenced on Friday, but his attorney went on vacation and White didn't show up.

That didn't seem to be a problem for Circuit Court Judge Dalton A. Roberson and the new Wayne County assistant prosecutor on the case and so the sentencing was rescheduled to 9 a.m., April 10.

According to the court website there also are two motions pending in the case and they were postponed until April 10, as well.

Assistant Prosecutor Trisha Gerard said her office got a call from White's new attorney, Otis Culpepper, saying Culpepper would be leaving town March 27 for a vacation out of the country.

Culpepper had replaced attorney Michael Vincent on the case Feb. 6 and did not mention an upcoming vacation to the court when the sentencing date of March 27 was set in his presence.

Gerard got the assignment after assistant prosecutor on the case Daniel Williams left the Prosecutor's Office to go into private practice.

Gerard said she ordered a transcript of the plea agreement, explaining, "I want to be clear on the terms of the plea." She appreciated the extra time to get up to speed on the case, which has been creeping

(continued on page 18)



THE POLICE WIN!

Saturday's charity basketball game for St. Vincent DePaul



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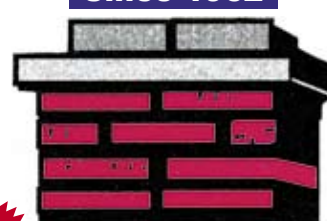
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

VBT board members tour single-stream recycling plant

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Six people from Van Buren Township toured the ReCommunity single-stream recycling facility in Huron Township last Thursday to see what happens to the things they put in their recycling bins each week.

Education Specialist Tracy Purrenhage led the tour of the 45,000-square-foot ReCommunity facility, showing the VBT group the tipping floor where the weighed trucks dump the recyclables. Then the trucks get weighed again to determine the difference -- the pounds of the recyclables.

There is an average of 30 trucks a day dumping their loads of recyclables and the crew handles about 15 tons an hour.

There are about 70 employees at the plant, currently on two, 10-hour shifts. They wear nitrile gloves, earplugs, and hard hats when they're out on the floor. They are offered face masks, but most don't want them.

The recyclables are put on a conveyor belt and they go to the team of six who do the first sorting, taking out cardboard for another conveyor and metals and glass as the recyclables run by before them.

The big problem on the line is the white plastic bags that gum up the machines. The white bags can be taken back to Meijer or Walmart for recycling, but they are not welcome in the regular, curbside recycling bins in VBT.

When the white bags get wound around the machinery, the line shuts down and someone has to climb inside the machine to cut the bags away with a knife.

If they don't get a garden hose out of the line in time, that too will gum up the works.

Bulky metal items and bulky plastic items are pulled off the line, along with pots and pans, kitty litter containers, electronics, and propane tanks.

It's amazing what people want to recycle. The firm collects box loads of metal fans and electronics and other things they get in small quantities for recycling when there is enough to deal with.

Black garbage bags are discarded as garbage. They do not open such bags because they can't see what it is inside.

Most of the recycling at the plant is paper which is pressed into 3'x3'x4' bales, weighing 700 to 2,000 pounds.

A bin holds American flags that have been put in recycling bins. Those go to the American Legion for proper disposal.

ReCommunity has customers for its items all over the world. China has a new Green Fence that restricts contamination (non-conforming items) of recycled items to 1-3%. China was rejecting loads from the U.S. and companies were anxious about sending loads over.

During the tour the guide showed different grades of plastic in tiny pellets and items that the recycled plastics could make, such as a sand bucket, stuffed toy, a shirt, and a toothbrush handle.

The tour teaches to recycle as much as possible and that there no longer is a need to sort recyclables at home. People can put paper, plastic, glass, metal, etc. in one bin to be sorted at the plant.

The Farmington Public Schools brought all 700 of its sixth graders to the recycling facility over a two-month period, ending Thursday, to teach them about recycling.

ReCommunity's Huron facility was



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Going on the tour of the ReCommunity Recycling plant in Huron Township recently were, from left, Van Buren Township Trustee Jeff Jahr, VBT Director of Planning and Economic Development Jack Knowles, Trustee Reggie Miller, VBT Account Clerk in charge of township recycling and trash pickup Jennifer Price, and Trustee Phil Hart.

designed specifically with tours in mind, allowing the public to see the entire recycling process from start to finish. Tours tend to last 1.5 hours and cover a broad

range of topics related to recycling.

For more information or to schedule a tour, call (734) 753-9125 or email HuronTours@ReCommunity.com.

Court Watching:

Judge Oakley dismisses VBT charges against Ibrahim Ibrahim

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After 34th District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley dismissed charges against Ibrahim Daoud Ibrahim of the Belleville Exchange, 9894 Belleville Road, Van Buren Township Detective Ken Toney said his department will refile the charges.

Ibrahim, 47, was charged with Organized Retail Crime and receiving and concealing \$1,000 or more in stolen property, but less than \$20,000, on March 20, 2014 in VBT. The warrant for his arrest was issued Dec. 17.

His co-defendant is Antonio Michael Henry, 19, who has the same charges and is considered a habitual offender. Henry

did not have an exam scheduled.

Target is the complainant. The iPads in question allegedly have been stolen from Target and misrepresented by the defendant, said VBT Det. Donovan McCarthy.

The preliminary exam for Ibrahim was due to be held March 25, but the prosecutor said a vital witness was not available. The witness' wife reportedly was experiencing difficulties with her pregnancy and the witness had taken time off to be with her.

Det. Toney said the witness' testimony was vital to the case and Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Blair Moody moved for an adjournment.

Judge Oakley asked when the prosecution found out about the witness being absent

and Det. Toney said it was the previous Friday [March 20] when the witness called him.

"It's the one we really need," Prosecutor Moody emphasized.

Ibrahim's retained attorney Raymond Guzall said they were not in favor of an adjournment and the prosecution has his number and could have called in advance of this court date to tell him the situation. Guzall made a motion to dismiss the charges.

Judge Oakley agreed that everyone should have been told about the missing witness much earlier and ordered the prosecution to begin the exam at once or he would dismiss. Moody said they couldn't

start without their important witness, so Judge Oakley dismissed the case without prejudice, which meant it could be refiled.

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OPINIONS

Editorial

VBT taxpayers hungry for action on serious charges

Van Buren Township taxpayers are very concerned about what action is being taken on serious charges against some top employees.

We get letters. We get comments on stories on our website. People call and come in for closed-door meetings with the editor to offer information and seek out answers.

We get letters from people who identify themselves to us but are afraid to have their names published – afraid of their police, afraid of their local government.

We have published a letter today, with name signed, with facts bolstered by documents obtained from the township under the Freedom of Information Act.

So far, the public's fears and concerns have not been answered publicly. Supervisor Linda Combs read a letter at the March 3 township meeting seeking to calm the complaints, but said nothing about the illegal activity taking place. It hasn't been mentioned publicly since.

All this was stirred up with the firing of a highly regarded fire fighter who refused to shut up about wrong-doing. His arbitration verdict is due April 10. His law suit against the township is under way.

Why can't the township leaders put a stop to the incredible loss of funds and trust? Where do residents turn for leadership?

Whatever will voters do when they are asked to renew the public safety millage? It won't be pretty.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Sumpter Township Trustee Matthew Oddy was on Channel 2 News last Thursday talking about the taxi driver who was shot to death inside his cab the night before in Detroit.

Oddy was speaking for Checker Cab and said the company has implemented several procedures on safety and had the Detroit Police come in and train 425 of its drivers on driver's safety.

Friends are working to send the body of Babul Miah, 41, back to his mother in Bangladesh, according to the news report.

Jean Johnson lives along High Street in the city of Belleville. She says she is 70 years old and is trying to keep the geese from fouling Horizon Park. She said on Monday that for the last three days she has been going out to wave her broom at the geese and they fly into the lake for a while and then come back. Her husband wants her to stop that, but she said it upsets her that it is such a mess over there.

The droppings in the park from the geese are horrible and it makes the park unusable, she said. Children can't play with the grass like that, she said.

The Music Lakeside people are starting to advertise the beginning of their season in June. Someone's going to have to come up with a better solution to the problem than Jean and her broom before they start inviting people to come sit on the grass for the concerts.

Lianne Clair has been named the new executive assistant to VBT Supervisor Linda Combs. Lianne said she started work last Thursday, March 26.



I asked Dr. Yvonne Craiger at Sumpter Pet Care if she received any comments on the article she wrote earlier this year about the deer that tried to get into the medical office in the city of Belleville just down the street from Owen Intermediate School.

She said she had lots of comments, with people telling her they hadn't thought about all the consequences of taking in wild deer to feed them as pets. Not a good idea.

Dr. Craiger said she got a call from Farmington (I think that's the place) and the caller wanted her to come out and catch a deer there. She said that is not her role. She's a veterinarian not a deer-catcher.

Pearl Varner, the Romulus Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year, dropped by to talk last week. We were discussing her non-stop volunteer work for the historical museum in Romulus and we got to the Peter C. Bird house that is the group's current big project.

I had no idea the big brick house on the hill just south of Grant Street/Wayne Road intersection (that is on my route to the 34th District Court each Wednesday) was the Peter Bird house.

It was built by a Civil War veteran in 1878. She said the airport wanted to tear it down but finally got tired of Pearl and the other history buffs in Romulus lobbying to preserve it. The airport deeded the house and property over for preservation.

It immediately needed a new roof, which it got. The volunteers plan to completely restore the home.

Pearl and her husband Virgil live in Van Buren Township, just down the road from me, but her heart is in Romulus, where her family has been since 1854.

One of the cases at 34th District Court out of Romulus last week was about a man who had a gun in the safe in his closet and his eight-year-old daughter was on the stand testifying that she saw him take it out of the safe. His charges were a felon with a gun and other weapons charges.

There was evidence that after he was arrested he wrote a letter to his daughter from the jail telling her it was just a cap gun. When she was on the stand she was confused. She said it was the truth that it was a real gun and then, when Daddy smiled at her or looked stern from his place at the defendant's table, she changed her mind and said it was a cap gun.

Judge Oakley bound him over to the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice and emphasized that he was to have NO CONTACT with his daughter. He is being held on \$100,000/10% bond. It was hard to see that little girl trying to tell the truth and trying to please her Daddy.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA

INDEPENDENT

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Letters

Cops vs. Fire Fighters raises \$4,028 for charity

To the Editor:

On behalf of St. Vincent de Paul of Saint Anthony's parish we would like to thank all who came out and supported our third-annual charity basketball game. It was a big success. We raised \$4,028.

Last year we assisted over 200 families with help from utilities, rent, doctors' transportation, food, and housing, to spiritual guidance.

A very special thank you to our police and fire departments from Van Buren, Sumpter, and Belleville.

I would also like to thank our great sponsors: Kohl's of Canton, St. Anthony's Men's Club, the Belleville Exchange, US Ecology, Waste Management, the Pumpkin Factory, Health Smart pharmacy, H&R Block, Burhop's Collision, Burke Engineering, Water Works car wash, Martin and Son, Stan's Alignment, Midwest Carpet, Louie and William's Landscaping, TCF Bank, Drake and Jordan Realty, Van Buren Township Trustee Reggie Miller, Jack Demmer Ford, State Farm Insurance, National Sports Center, Enrica's Golden Needle, Trim Co., Discount Tire, the Lunchbox, Blade's Hair Studio, Belleville Coney Island, Twisted Rooster, Applebee's, Romulus Rec. Center, Johnson's Lithographic Printing, Dearborn Meats, Henry Ford Greenfield Village, Rosemary and the *Independent* newspaper and their staff, Deacon Pete, Father Tom, the parishioners of Saint Anthony's parish for over 60 years supporting St Vincent de Paul Society.

Once again thanks to everyone who came out and supported our fundraiser.

Reg Ion

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SW Wayne Democrats elect new board

To the Editor:

The Southwestern Wayne Democratic Club proudly represents the Southwestern Wayne County communities of the City of Belleville, along with Huron, Sumpter and Van Buren townships.

Please join the Southwestern Wayne Democratic Club in congratulating our newly elected and re-elected Executive Board Members:

Kevin McNamara – President
Sharon Curson – Vice President
Therese O'Neil Darling – Recording Secretary
Janice Wright – Treasurer
Debbie Chamberlain – Corresponding Secretary
Scott Russell – Sergeant at Arms
Sharon Clator-Peters - Trustee
David Haener -Trustee
John Herman – Trustee
Marty Kalasz - Trustee
Kevin Martin - Trustee

Please also join us in extending our heartfelt gratitude to those members leaving the Executive Board: Barbara Miller, Jakleen Ochalek, Carl Pedersen, Jim Pedersen and Sheila Pedersen. We thank you all for your years of dedication and service to our club and our communities!

Our membership meetings are the fourth Thursday of the month, 7 p.m., at the Wayne County Fair Grounds (Quirk Road). Our annual Chili Cook-off is Friday, May 8, 5-7 p.m. and is sure to feature the best chili recipes around! \$20 to enter a pot of chili; Adults, \$10, and Children 6-12, \$5, to taste. (Children under five taste for free.) All are welcome!

For tickets or more information, please call Kevin McNamara (313) 999-7495 or Debbie Chamberlain (734) 634-3569.

With Best Regards,
Debbie Chamberlain
Corresponding Secretary
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Democratic Club

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– Albert Einstein

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More Letters

Soccer fund raiser at Lodge Lanes was great

To the Editor and Soccer Friends:

We had our first bowling fundraiser on Saturday, March 28, at Lodge Lanes and what a wonderful turnout! The event was a huge success and we would like to thank all our volunteers for their continued help and support.

We had so many wonderful basket donations that were raffled off. We would like to thank the following donors: Atchinson Ford, Mayor Kerreen Conley, Pryde Athletics, and VBCS Teams U6 Beetles, U8 Vipers, GU9 Dragonflies, GU9 Villains, GU10 Flames, GU11 Lightning, GU12 Twisters, BU10 Rowdies, and BU11 Spiders!

What a great day for our soccer community!

The 2015 Spring season is here! All coaches have been contacted and given rosters. Parents, please make certain to contact us at vanburensoccerbelleville@yahoo.com if you have not heard from a coach.

Games will begin April 18, so please continue to check our website for schedules being posted. It's a very exciting time for VBCS!

Soccer Rules!
Angie McCluskey, president
Van Buren Community Soccer
And all VBCS Board Members



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Shirley Ann Anderson

SHIRLEY A. ANDERSON

(August 23, 1935 - March 28, 2015)

Shirley Ann Anderson, age 79, of Belleville, MI, passed away Saturday, March 28, 2015 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. She was born August 23, 1935 in Detroit, MI, daughter of Albert F. and Mary (Gyorkos) Carr. Mrs. Anderson worked in the automotive industry and she was also a switch board operator for the telephone company for many years, as well. She was a member of Grace Baptist Church, Ypsilanti, MI. Shirley enjoyed crafts, especially quilting. She was an avid reader. She enjoyed camping, fishing and gardening in her younger years. She was a member of the Moose Lodge. Most of all, she loved the Detroit Tigers. She supported them during the good and bad seasons.

Survived by two daughters Penny (Mark) Wilms and Ronnie (Jerry) Holshoe, both of Ypsilanti, MI; three sons Delbert (Michelle) Anderson of Sault Sainte Marie, MI, Allen (Carrie) Anderson of Pinckney, MI and Doug (Kathy) Anderson of Hazel Park, MI; 12 grandchildren Kristopher Norton, Nicole Anderson, Jennifer Anderson, Melanie Anderson, Dustin Anderson, Nick Anderson, Danielle Anderson, Shane Anderson, Scott Clarke, Chrissy Clarke, Jon Wilms and James Wilms; numerous great-grandchildren; a brother Duane (Linda) Carr of Zephyr Hills, FL; also several nieces, nephews and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Nolen Anderson on April 28, 1992, also daughter Judy Lynn Anderson on May 10, 1953.

Visitation was 3-8 PM Wednesday and will be 11-12 PM Thursday, April 2, 2015 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500. Funeral Services will begin at Noon at the funeral home. Interment will follow and be in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the wishes of the family and would be appreciated. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Alisha Leigh Johnson-Ray

ALISHA L. JOHNSON-RAY

(August 13, 1979 - March 22, 2015)

Alisha Leigh Johnson-Ray, age 35, lifelong resident of Belleville, MI, passed away Sunday, March 22, 2015 at Oakwood Hospital-Annapolis Center, Wayne, MI. She was born August 13, 1979 in Ypsilanti, MI, daughter of Billy Wayne & Sandra Leigh (Testorelli) Johnson.

Alisha was a cheerleader at Belleville High School and graduated in 1997. She went on to get her cosmetology license at Virginia Farrell School of Beauty. She worked at numerous local hair salons. She loved doing hair, writing, and collecting angels.

She is survived by two sons Caeleb, 14, and Ethan Ray, 9, their father Russell Ray, all of Canton, MI; daughter Layla Rise, 3, and her father Greg Rise, both of Taylor, MI; her parents Sandy and Billy Johnson of Belleville; grandfathers James Testorelli of Florida and Billy Jo Johnson of Hazard, KY; and two sisters Tara Marie Johnson of Canton and Jenny Ann Johnson of Belleville. Alisha is also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. She was preceded in death by her grandmothers Mabel Testorelli and Arlena Johnson.

A gathering was held noon until 2 PM Thursday, March 26, 2015 with a 2 PM Funeral Service at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734)697-4500. Deacon Peter Cornell will officiate. Cremation rites have been accorded.

Memorial contributions may be made to the funeral home to defray expenses, or on-line on GoFundMe.com, or to breast cancer research. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her children and family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

More Letters

Families invited to Frog Night Friday on April 17

To the Editor:

Croak ... creeeek ... pip ... ribbit!

In other words, families, join us at Riggs Heritage Park from 6 to 8 p.m. on April 17 for Frog Night Friday! Kids will have a blast learning all about those awesome green neighbors of ours – *the frogs!*

We will discuss the frogs that live here in Michigan and learn how not only to recognize their calls, but also how to imitate them! Participants will meet some of our native frogs (and tadpoles) up close, go on a kid-friendly frog hunt, and make a few froggy projects to take home!

This will surely be an evening your

youngster will enjoy. Make sure you hop on over to the Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department to register soon – space is limited.

Pre-registration is required. Participants can register at the Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department at the Van Buren Township Hall. The cost is \$2 per person. Please call (734) 699-8921 for more information.

The event takes place out-of-doors, so please dress accordingly.

Jennifer Zaenglein, Deputy Director
Van Buren Parks and Recreation

A van with a lift would make dream come true

To the Editor:

Never give up. My dream is still alive.

I ministered for many years in Detroit's inner city, Sacred Heart in Detroit's Eastern Market area. I drove a wheel chair van with lift at St. Patrick's Senior Center, taking people for chemotherapy, dialysis treatments, to doctors, dentists, etc.

As a lay minister of service, as a servant of God, my mission is to help people. If I had a van with a lift, I could do this. Being on a fixed income it would be hard to buy a new one. However, if someone had one to donate or one I could purchase and afford, it would be a blessing.

I do believe dreams do come true. Thanking you,
Charlie Crispell, Sumpter Township
home (734) 697-9441
cell (734) 391-9485

JOYCE JEAN McLAUGHLIN

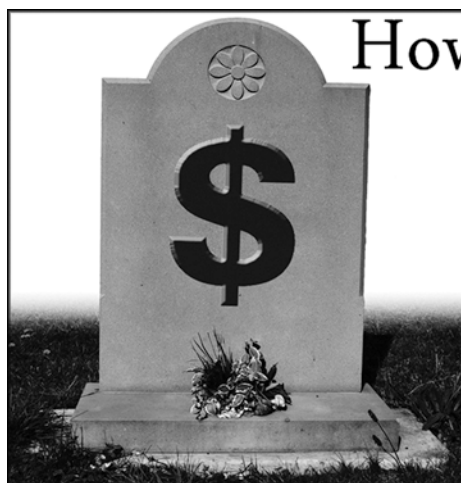
(January 9, 1939 - March 31, 2015)

Age 76. Survived by six children: Marvin, Donald, Cheryl, Carol, Wanda, and Kevin; 17 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; three brothers. Funeral at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 2, at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

ARNOLD EDWARD SINGLETON

(July 1, 1950 - March 23, 2015)

Age 64 died in Florida. Survived by his children: Cindy, Amy, Michelle, Bobby, and Jason; brothers William and Raymond; sisters Asondra and Laura. Burial at Fox Cemetery, Newcomb, TN. Harp Funeral Home of Jellico.



How Much Does it Cost to Die?

Flowers, service, casket, burial, The list of expenses that occur at time of death can be overwhelming. It's important to look at all the costs because some funeral homes charge more for their services while others charge more for their caskets and vaults. There is a world of difference between funeral homes. True comparison is the only way to ensure you receive exactly what you want at a price you can easily afford.



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More Letters

The records show misuse of VBT funds

To the Editor:

This is an Open Letter to Supervisor Combs:

At the March 3 Board Meeting a letter written by Adam Byrd regarding Kenneth Floro's manipulation of the blended rate system was read by Brenda McClanahan. In your prepared statement you read: *We have also passed an 18-hour policy which says that police and fire personnel can only work 18 consecutive hours after which they must take at least a 6-hour break*

Following the meeting, I sent you several e-mails requesting information about when and who approved the 18-6 work policy.

You had no information for me as to who approved the policy or when it was enacted. You even went as far as to deflect my questions to Clerk Wright. Since Clerk Wright had no information other than you had made the statement and it is the supervisor's job to oversee the police & fire depts., I requested copies of police and fire timesheets for blended rate officers from Jan. 1, 2015 to date (March 21). Costing me \$37.50.

What I found was Lt. Floro continues to work up to 34 consecutive hours without a break and continues to manipulate the system by using sick time and vacation time to bloat his pay.

Except for one paid sick day, B.C. McNally has worked 33 consecutive days, 30 of which have been at least 12-hours long.

Sgt. Mark Abdilla routinely works 36 hours straight with no break between police and fire.

The 11-year blended rate experiment is not working for the township. It has not gotten us enough fire fighters to provide the two-man, 24-7 firefighter staffing for both fire stations as promised with the millage. It drains a tremendous amount of wages and compensation from the budget. The fatigue aspect is also a critical problem. University studies have shown police officers face many different types of emergencies. Their reactions making life and death decisions

with a firearm may save their own lives and those of others -- or endanger them. Fatigue also boosts the likelihood of police brutality.

Fire Fighter Fatigue should also be worrisome to the township; they must make split-second decisions and perform strenuous physical duties and precise medical procedures.

Supervisor Combs and the Board must approve policies that are enforced and supervised. Any appointed officer that turns a blind eye knowing that an employee has abandoned his post, putting the safety of the township at risk and increasing emergency response time needs to be fired. NOW.

Diane Madigan, Community Advocate
Former Chair of the Public Safety Committee

VBT residents need to speak up on problems

To the Editor:

In your recent publication of March 26 there was a very informative letter "Legacy costs detrimental to Van Buren Township residents" written by "Name withheld by request." The letter put the issue into perspective with a time-line and some historical aspects of how it began and the problems it has caused. This information is imperative for the residents to know and I thank the writer for the time and courage it

took to compose it.

The courageous Trustee that was referred to in the letter saw the blended rate as an issue that needed to be changed or improved and made it known at a public meeting. The Trustee felt that it was unfair for firefighters to be working alongside police officers performing the same work at a fire scene and be paid differing wages.

The "cancerous" police officer decided that the Trustee was a threat to the "status quo" and his extremely large pay check was at risk. It seems the police officer expected the Trustee to look the other way after threatening his life over the phone. If this police officer is still employed at VBT then the "Name Withheld" writer is justified

(continued from page 9)

2015 Spring Consignment AUCTION

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Sunday, April 12, 2015

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Auctioneer Terry Mohr Starts – 1:00 pm

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More Letters

(continued from page 8)

in keeping his name hidden. For this very reason, I too will remain anonymous.

Not only was the Trustee threatened but the Supervisor at the time was ridiculed, scorned, treated with malice and contempt because he was budget-conscious and because he questioned the excessive overtime in the police department.

This treatment took place during work/study meetings, board meetings and budget hearings. This was in addition to the daily chore of dodging hurdles thrown down by an elected official with doors slammed in his face both figuratively and literally.

Both the Trustee and the Supervisor were considered to be a threat against the "good ol' boy system" of which they were not members. The residents of Van Buren Township voted for change in 2008, but the "cancerous ones" did not want change so they fought very hard against it.

I think many residents would agree with the writer that "cancer is a small portion of the whole" and that there are many fine police officers in Van Buren Township. They are the distinguished officers that would never threaten the life of an elected official simply for doing one's job. Those "non-cancerous" police officers and firefighters were disgusted and appalled at the behavior of their public safety director and fellow officers during the 2008 election and Recall attempt.

The "name withheld" letter also refers to the current administration as weak. It takes physical and mental energy, hard work, devotion, and determination to be a strong leader and these qualities are lacking in this administration. I believe this is due to the "cancerous clique" which does not want change or improvements. Some of those members brought us the Visteon debacle.

"The circumstances border on a police state" is a very valid concern for many residents. The reinstatement of the Public Safety Committee would help to keep the police department in check and answerable to the residents as it should be since we pay their wages.

"Use your pen to eliminate the cancerous ones" says "Name withheld," but I would add: Send a strong message by using your voice at board meetings and your pen to suggest separating the Fire Department from the Police Department. Then at the next millage renewal Vote NO for the police millage and YES for the Fire

Department and Emergency Responders. Anonymous Resident of Van Buren Township

More in common with traitors than heroes

To the Editor:

The other day I was watching one of those Wounded Warriors ads on TV. You know the ones: the hero with the brain damage, another with arm and legs gone. Heroes all.

A few minutes later: Breaking News. The Army will Court Marshal Sgt. Bergdahl for desertion. You remember – five terrorists were traded for one deserter whose family was brought to the White House and given a hero's welcome.

Seems this administration has more in common with traitors than heroes.

Mickey Widener

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Shaylett Stuckey of Van Buren Township, center, was crowned Mrs. Michigan America 2015 on Saturday in Grandville. From left are: Lorilee Gute, fourth runner up; Jackie Blankenship, first runner up; Shaylett Stuckey, Winner; Christina Ackerman, second runner up; and Stacey Davis, third runner up.

Shaylett Stuckey of VBT crowned Mrs. Michigan America 2015

Shaylett Stuckey of Van Buren Township was crowned Mrs. Michigan America 2015 at a spectacular event held in Grandville Saturday night where she competed with women from across the state.

Stuckey, who also holds the title of Mrs. Motor City Michigan, holds a bachelor's degree in Business Management and has worked as a sales consultant, entrepreneur and recording artist. She also served as

office manager at Keystone Academy in Sumpter Township. She has been married 21 years and has two children.

In addition to earning the title of Mrs. Michigan America 2015, Stuckey also received the Interview Award, Spirit of Pageantry Award and a prize package valued at more than \$30,000, including an expense-paid trip to compete for the title of Mrs. America. Now celebrating its 38th year in its modern format, the Mrs. America Pageant focuses the attention of the nation and the world on the versatility of the contemporary American married woman.

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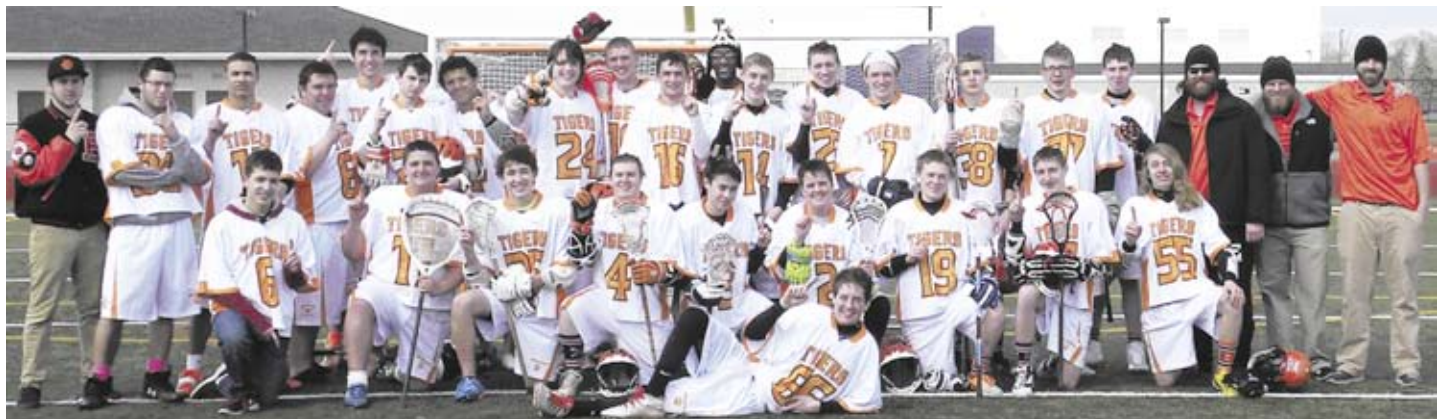
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"SHOOTER"



Oh boy does **Shooter** love people especially the ladies! He's a 4 year old Australian Cattle dog mix with a lovable and enthusiastic personality. This little ladies man pup wastes no time putting his moves on you and has you hooked pretty quick. He's very people oriented and seems to like everyone but appears to have a special affection for the females that he meets. We're not saying he's the biggest flirt in the world but he knows how to use his puppy dog charms to his advantage. He loves any attention you give him especially ear scratches as he looks up at you with love in his chocolate brown eyes. Outside he tends to stay near you often snuggled right up to your side. Being a young Cattle dog mix, **Shooter** still does have quite a bit of energy although he seems to like to use it for taking long walks with you rather than chasing tennis balls or other toys. His jumping skills are quite impressive too and some gentle corrections are needed to curb his bounce a bit. He also corners the market on adorable with a small build, black and white spotted body, and black and brown raccoon mask covering his small triangle shaped face. Come meet **Shooter** today but be warned you may not be able to resist taking this little cutie pie home. He's neutered, vaccinated and micro-chipped. Call **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** at **734-461-9458** or visit our website **fmar1.org** for more information.



With new Head Coach Jeremy Napier and his new coaching staff, the 2015 Belleville High School Varsity Lacrosse Team started its season with a win over Ann Arbor Greenhills on Saturday, March 21. Belleville was down 2 points with 1 ½-minutes left in the game only to come back to tie the game 6-6. With 47 seconds left in double overtime, Belleville scored to win 7-6.

Watch the BHS Lacrosse teams at home games

The coaches and team members of the Belleville High School Lacrosse teams invite the public to come support this newer

sport in Belleville and a fast-growing sport in Michigan.

Upcoming home games:

April 18 – BHS vs St. Clair United, Varsity @ 7 pm

April 22 -- BHS vs Swartz Creek, JV @ 5:30 p.m. & Varsity @ 7 p.m.

April 24 – BHS vs Grosse Ile, JV @ 5:30 p.m.

May 9 – BHS vs Bedford, JV @ 3 p.m. & Varsity @ 4:30 p.m.

May 11 – BHS vs Divine Child, Varsity @ 5 p.m.

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Emily and Kate Marsh invited into honor societies at WCC, EMU

Sisters Emily Paige Marsh and Kate Linnea Marsh have been invited into memberships in two separate honors societies in the two separate colleges they attend.

Emily and Kate are the daughters of Tim and Karen Marsh of Van Buren Township.

Emily, a freshman at Washtenaw Community College studying Criminal Justice, was invited into Phi Theta Kappa. She is a 2014 graduate of Belleville High School and earned a place on the Fall 2014 Dean's List. Her grade point average is

3.76.

Kate, a junior at Eastern Michigan University with a double major in Biology and Music, was invited into Phi Kappa Phi. She is a 2012 graduate of BHS and was named to the EMU Dean's List for the Fall 2014 semester, her fifth consecutive semester on the Dean's List. Her cumulative grade point average is 3.96.

Both sisters will be inducted into their honor societies this spring.

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Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Thursday, April 2** – This is the first of a four-session series to Learn Meditation – Mind, Body and Soul with instructor Sissel Bridges, 11 a.m. to noon at the September Days Senior Center, fee \$20. Sign up at the center, 699-8918.
- **Saturday, April 4** – Herbs 102 is the program at 10 a.m. at the Belleville Library Program Room. Medical assistant and massage therapist Bonnie Mulliner will teach about the uses of herbs in food and

drink, as well as infused and essential oils in salves. Free.

- **Saturday, April 4** – Flop E. Bunny Candy Hunt at Victory Park. Free. Courtesy of the Belleville Central Business Community. Starts at noon.
- **Saturday, April 4** – Whiskers the Easter Bunny will be at The Q, 879 Sumpter Road, in the Belle Plaza Shopping Center, from noon to 3 p.m. Parents can take photos and kids will all get treats from the bunny's giant basket. Golden tickets inside random plastic eggs bring special prizes.
- **Saturday, April 4** – Take your Household Hazardous Waste to the Wayne County sponsored collection from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Romulus Civic Center, 11111

Wayne Rd.

- **Wednesday, April 8** – Chicken Supper from 5 p.m. to sell out at Willow United Methodist Church, 36925 Willow Rd., New Boston, (734) 654-9020. Carry-outs start at 4:30 p.m. Adults \$10, children 12 and under \$5.

- **Thursday, April 9** – Britt Keene of Feral Foods CSA will discuss "Back to Our Roots: Small-Scale Farming" at 7 p.m. in the Belleville Library Program Room. Free. Part of the Homegrown Knowledge Series.

- **Monday, April 13** – State Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood invites you to his 9 a.m. coffee hour at Mike's Grill, 6047 North Wayne Road in Westland. Tell him your concerns. His district includes Van Buren and Sumpter townships and the city of Belleville.

- **Saturday, April 11** – Autism Fund Raiser begins at 4 p.m. at the Van Buren Eagles Lodge, 9961 Beck Road. All proceeds go to the Van Buren Public Schools in Belleville, Burger School for Students with Autism in Garden City, and Webster Elementary in Livonia. Tickets \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Call Rich at (734) 629-7122.

- **Thursday, April 16** – Third Thursday Lecture and General Membership Meeting at 6 p.m. at the Belleville Area Museum features Gerald Dodson, retired from the Department of Defense, presenting "JFK: No More Tomorrows." Free to members of the Historical Society and \$5 for non-members. Election of Historical Society officers.

BHS swimmers since 1960s invited to alumni reunion on May 6

All boys and girls swim team alumni – swimmers, divers, families and friends – of Belleville High School swimming throughout the decades, 1960s to 1990s, are invited to a reunion on Wednesday, May 6.

The event is mainly to honor the swim coaches Sam Vicchy, Bill Snider, and Frank Musser, who have accepted invitations to reunite with their former students.

The reunion will be held at the BHS Commons (cafeteria) from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., with refreshments and snacks. A coaches' recognition and award ceremony will be held with a tour of the new natatorium facility led by the 2015 coaches and swimmers from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

An after-event celebration will be held at a local restaurant, yet to be determined.

Tax-deductible donations of \$20 per BHS alumni swimmer or diver are suggested. The majority of the fund-raiser will benefit the BHS Swim and Dive program for ongoing supplies and equipment. All the BHS alumni involved with organizing and planning this event are volunteers.

Cash/check contributions should go to BHS Swim & Dive, c/o Charles Smelt, 50528 Eagles Nest, Northville, MI 48168.

Smelt asks for everyone to share the information on the event with other BHS swimming and diving alumni and RSVP no later than April 30 to:

• Charles Smelt, Class of 1979
csmelt@comcast.net, cell: (248) 760-3257; or

• Greg Cooper, Class of 1980
coopman22@hotmail.com, cell: (248) 974-9925.


"Let's achieve a large turnout in appreciation of our coaches," Smelt said.

Lincoln Schools announce dates for Kindergarten Roundup

Lincoln Consolidated Schools will hold Kindergarten Roundup April 21-23.

Children who will be five years of age on or before Dec. 1, 2015 and are residents of the Lincoln Consolidated School District or plan to attend through the district's Schools of Choice are eligible to attend the Lincoln Schools during the 2015-16 school year.

Appointments can be scheduled by calling (734) 484-7045.



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Meet Whiskers at The Q
 879 Sumpter Rd.
Saturday, April 4th
Noon - 3pm
Treats for all children

Una's Golden Thread Shoppe

- **SEWING**
- **ALTERING**
- **MENDING**

(734) 753-5873

Sumpter Township works on paying down unfunded liabilities

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

After an hour-long March 24 public hearing the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees approved the amended 2014-15 budget and the proposed 2015-16 budget of \$4,497,350.

He said \$400,000 more in revenue is expected and \$300,000 more in expenses. Sumpter's fiscal year ends March 31.

Finance Director Jim Glahn expects the landfill royalty funds to go up to a conservative estimate of \$1.2 million from last year's \$1.15 million. Non-business licenses and permits are expected to go up, along with charges for services and fines and forfeitures. Intergovernmental revenue is expected to go down along with interest and rents.

The royalty fund's fund balance at the end of March was \$4,121,086 and at the end of March 2016 is expected to be \$4,533,586.

The big item discussed at the public hearing was Glahn's explanation of how Sumpter was trying to do something about the unfunded portion of the township's pension liability. The retirement benefits promised are only 65-75% funded in Sumpter, much like most of the other municipalities in the state.

Glahn said he just got back from a MERS (Michigan Employees' Retirement System) conference and he wants to work to get Sumpter 100%-plus funded. He said he is channeling increased funds toward the unfunded liabilities.

Glahn explained that years ago, before he came to work for Sumpter, the board gave full retirement benefits to two police employees – Chief Clinton Brown and Lt. Wanda Elden – although they had never paid anything into their retirements.

He said it is costing Sumpter \$350,000 a year to MERS to get their retirements straightened out.

"Everything else is good," Glahn said, pointing out when he came Sumpter had 13 payable bonds and now there are just two. One of the bonds recently was refinanced from 5.5% interest to 2%, saving the township \$220,000 over the next 10 years.

He recalls when the township was getting \$4.7 million a year in landfill royalties and when the Canadian trash stopped coming the township lost \$3.5 million in a year.

He said this is the third straight year Sumpter was able to get increased landfill royalties which now could be from \$1.5 to \$1.6 million.

In other business at the March 24 meeting the township board:

- Approved fiscal year insurance with Burnham & Flowers for \$130,471, up from \$129,113 last year because new options for coverage have been checked off;

- Approved the second and final reading of the Provisionary Center Zoning Ordinance. The township adds this to its ordinance licensing marijuana growing operations;

- Approved directing Carlisle-Wortman Associates to update the master plan at a cost of \$9,500;

- Considered the planning commission's recommendation to rescind the special exception permit for Bewey Horn and the Sumpter Roller Rink, 19750 Sumpter Road, and to refund his fees of \$1,252. The board decided to send the issue back to the planning commission to be worked out. When the details are worked out, it can come back to the board for a final decision;

- Approved use of the Community Center gymnasium without charge for an Eagle Scout fund-raising spaghetti dinner from 4 to 8 p.m. on May 16 to raise money to erect a weather shelter at the Recycling Center. Supervisor John Morgan explained because the township is the beneficiary of this project the fund raising use of the gym would be free; and

- Approved the fireworks display for Sumpter Township Country Festival on May 24, with a rain date of May 25.

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INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

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OWNER OPERATORS needed. Dedicated Lanes! From MI, KC, TN areas. CDL-A, 12 mo exp. www.bawc.com or Tabitha: 800-325-7884 Ext. 4

PART-TIME on-site Maintenance. Own tools required. \$12-\$15/hour. Prior experience desirable. Inquires to: Carrie Martin (734) 459-5440 or cmartin@herriman.net.

EXPERIENCED JOURNEYMAN & Carpenter Apprentice wanted with 2 years experience. Reply to info@aqhms.com

OPERATIONS ASSISTANT - Must be comfortable with computers/software and talking with customers over the phone. Call Mosquito One at (734) 922-5700 or e-mail Sales @MosquitoOne.com Salary based on experience. Seasonal position, could lead to permanent. Downtown Belleville location.

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McDonald's Franchisee Seeking Quality Crew & Managers to fill Immediate hourly positions (fast food experience a plus). Open interviews every Tuesday 3-5pm. Apply online at www.mcmichigan.com/18650

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Ypsilanti, MI 48197
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Johnny's Grill Restaurant located on Belleville Lake is looking for experienced Bartenders, Chefs, Pizza Makers, Managers, Dishwashers, Servers and Delivery Drivers. Also need a full time Maintenance Person. Must be reliable. Mail resume to: Johnny's Grill, 146 High St., Belleville, MI 48111 or fax to (734) 699-7847

FT/PT custodians needed. Must be reliable, have own transportation, pass a background check. Email mijobopenings@gmail.com

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INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

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NEW DARK BLUE Swivel Chair. Very modern. Paid \$370, asking \$100. Must sell. (734) 941-3785. 4/9

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MOBILE HOME FOR SALE

1999 Fleetwood. 28'x60' in Holiday West. Needs walls painted/carpet cleaned. 3bdr/2bath + computer room. All appliances stay. Nice Home. \$17,000. (734) 219-1054. 4/16

VEHICLE FOR SALE

1997 FORD RANGER. Auto, red, 4 cyl. 120k miles. Clean inside & out. \$1,800. (734) 697-1417 4/2

2010 CHEVY COBALT, dark blue, 94,000 well maintained miles, tires very good. Recently detailed. 1 owner. Excellent condition. \$5,500 OBO. (734) 697-1478. 4/9

F350 - 4 DOOR, 1999, 7.3 diesel, auto, 4 wheel drive, electric start. New tires/brakes. 98,000 miles. No rust. Customized. \$22,000. (734) 699-3452 4/30

2000 DODGE NEON, 121K, Needs work. \$850 OBO. GM 400 trans, short tail, rebuilt. \$250. (734) 483-1507 4/16

1989 MUSTANG LX, V-8, auto. Lots of new parts, runs good. \$1,100 OBO. Ask for Jerry (734) 697-2203 or cell (734) 309-1144. 4/16

1993 ESCORT WAGON. Runs and drives good. \$750 OBO (734) 732-8668 4/16

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ONE BEDROOM. All utilities included except electricity. One month deposit required. Rent \$625. (313) 790-0498 4/16

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WANTED - SMALL CONTAINERS of Shampoo, Toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladex's, 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600 TFN

SOMEONE RELIABLE for yard work. \$10 hour. Planting, weeding, etc. Call Sara (517) 918-6445. 4/16

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- Will Rogers

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"When they call the roll in the Senate, the Senators do not know whether to answer 'Present' or 'Not guilty.'"
- Theodore Roosevelt

Notice to Advertisers:

The Belleville-Area Independent will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The Independent's liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the Independent be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

MANUFACTURED HOMES FOR SALE

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We'll match your tax return up to **\$4000 as credit** when you purchase a select Franklin owned home in one of our fine communities through April 15th.* Visit our website for a list of homes for purchase or lease www.FranklinHomeSales.com

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\$53,000. Looking to build your dream home? Great opportunity to own this lovely 3.19 acres in Belleville. Country setting. 196 ft. frontage. Can be split with easement. City water at road. Property perked and approved in 2006. For more information, call Penny Young at (734) 740-7350. **Century 21 Belvil Realty (734) 697-1800**

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



**Minding
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The **Easter Bunny** will be hopping all around town this weekend with the **Belleville Central Business Community's** annual candy hunt Saturday, April 4, beginning at 12:15 p.m. at Victory Park. The toddler to 3 year olds will be up first, followed by 4-5 year olds at 12:30 p.m., 6-7 year olds at 12:45 p.m., and 8-10 year olds at 1 p.m. Free framed pictures with Flop E. Bunny will be available from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Whiskers the Easter Bunny will be available at the Q, special events center on Sumpter Road next to Belleville Coney Island this Saturday, April 4, from noon until 3 p.m.

The Easter Bunny will also be at **Leo's Coney Island** this Friday, April 3, from 3 to 8 p.m., and then on Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Garden Fantasy Greenhouse & Florist will also host the Easter Bunny on Friday, April 3, from 10 a.m. to noon, and 2 to 4 p.m., then on Saturday, April 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Garden Fantasy also has a large selection of Easter Lilies, spring potted bulbs, and fresh-cut flowers for your holiday table this Easter. Check out their ad in today's paper for Teleflora Easter specials and call **(734) 699-7370**.

The **Bayou Grill** on Main Street is holding its **Easter Brunch** on Sunday, April 5, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$12.99 for adults, \$5.99 for children 10 and under. Reservations are recommended. Call **(734) 697-2300**.

The **Moose Lodge 934** on Sumpter Road at Harris Road is gearing up for another **Food Auction** on Sunday, April 12, beginning at 1 p.m. with doors opening at 12:30 p.m. Bring coolers. See their ad in today's paper for details. For info, call **Joe Summers** at **(734) 755-6433**.

Jimmy Long Crazy Grill is gearing up for summer, taking reservations to have his state-of-the-art griller/smoker at your next party or special event. Call **(734) 502-8015**.

Edible Arrangements on Belleville Road in the **Murray's Plaza** is offering \$5 off an arrangement or dipped fruit box with its ad code in today's paper. Call **(734) 391-8176**.

The **Huron Sportsman's Club** in New Boston is holding an **All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry** tomorrow evening, April 3, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the club at **19835 Sterling Street**. The cost is \$11 per person and the dinner includes French fries and coleslaw. Beverages will be available. Call **(734) 765-9822** for info.

JR's Small Engine Repair in Willis repairs lawn mowers, tractors, tillers, chainsaws, and much more. Spring tune-up specials start at \$40 if you mention their ad in today's paper. Pick-up and delivery services are also available. Call **JR Chapman** at **(734) 587-6162** or **(734) 564-2039**.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION – MAY 5, 2015

In accordance with Michigan Election Law, Act 116 of 1954 Section 168.653 (a), notice is hereby given to the registered voter s of the Charter Township of Van Buren that the General Election will be held **TUESDAY, May 5, 2015**.

Polls are open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST. Polling place locations for Van Buren Township:

Precinct #1	McBride Middle School	47097 McBride
Precinct #2	Wayne County Community College	9555 Haggerty Rd.
Precinct #3	Van Buren Township Hall (Board Room)	46425 Tyler Rd.
Precinct #4	Van Buren Township Hall (Gym)	46425 Tyler Rd
Precinct #5	Tyler Elementary School	42299 Tyler Rd.
Precinct #6	Belleville High	501 W. Columbia
Precinct #7	Belleville High	501 W. Columbia
Precinct #8	Haggerty Elementary School	13770 Haggerty Rd
Precinct #9	Savage Elementary School	42975 Savage Rd
Precinct #10	Owen Intermediate School	45201 Owen St.

All polling place locations are handicap accessible. To obtain election instructions in an alternative format (audio or Braille), contact the Clerk's Office prior to Election Day.

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROPOSALS:

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROPOSAL 15 -1

A proposal to amend the State Constitution to increase the sales/use tax from 6% to 7% to replace and supplement reduced revenue to the School Aid Fund and local units of government caused by the elimination of the sales/use tax on gasoline and diesel fuel for vehicles operating on public roads, and to give effect to laws that provide additional money for roads and other transportation purposes by increasing the gas tax and vehicle registration fees.

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Eliminate sales/use taxes on gasoline/diesel fuel for vehicles on public roads.
- Increase portion of use tax dedicated to School Aid Fund (SAF).
- Expand use of SAF to community colleges and career/technical education, and prohibit use for 4-year colleges/universities.
- Give effect to laws, including those that:
 - Increase sales/use tax to 7%, as authorized by constitutional amendments.
 - Increase gasoline/diesel fuel tax and adjust annually for inflation, increase vehicle registration fees, and dedicate revenue for roads and other transportation purposes.
 - Expand competitive bidding and warranties for road projects.
 - Increase earned income tax credit.
 - Should this proposal be adopted?

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROPOSAL: MILLAGE PROPOSAL-BUILDING AND SITE SINKING FUND TAX

Shall Van Buren Public Schools, Counties of Wayne and Washtenaw, State of Michigan, create a sinking fund for the purpose of construction or repair of school buildings and the improvement and development of sites and for any other purpose which may be authorized by law, and be authorized to levy not to exceed 1.13 mills (\$1.13 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of seven (7) years, 2016 to 2022 inclusive? This levy would renew the sinking fund levy previously authorized by the voters in 2008 for an additional seven (7) years. It is estimated that the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in the 2016 calendar year shall be approximately \$1,715,961 from the local taxes authorized in this proposal. A portion of the revenue collected may be subject to capture by the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority.

A sample of the ballot may be obtain at the Van Buren Township Clerk's Office 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Township, MI 48111 or on the Township website www.vanburen-mi.org . Applications for Absentee Voter Ballots are available at the Clerk's Office. The deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the May 5, 2015 Election is Saturday, May 2, 2015 until 2:00 p.m. at the Clerk's office.

The County Treasurer's Statement:

I, Raymond J. Wojtowicz, Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan do hereby certify that, as of March 6, 2015 the total of all vot ed increases in excess of the tax rate limitation established by Section 6, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Michigan, as amended, and the years such increases are effective on property in the County of Wayne are as follows:

WAYNE COUNTY Wayne County, Michigan Township of Van Buren			
Taxing Authorities	Date of Election	Voted Increases	Years Increases Effective
County of Wayne	November 3, 2009	1 mill	2019
Wayne County Jail	August 7, 2012	1 mill	2021
Wayne County Parks	November 2, 2010	0.25 mills	2015
Wayne County Community College	November 6, 2008	1.25 mills	2020
	November 6, 2012	1 mill	2022
Lincoln Consolidated Schools	November, 2012	18 mills	2018 (non-homestead)
Van Buren Public School District	November, 2011	18 mills	2016 (non-homestead)
	November 4, 2008	1.13 mills	2015

City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR PAID ON CALL FIREFIGHTER POSITIONS



The City of Belleville is seeking applications for Paid on Call Firefighter positions. Applicant must be at least 18 years of age, possess a valid Michigan driver's license, pass a criminal background check and live within a certain distance of the city limits. Experienced candidates are preferred, but will train.

Applications are available by emailing Captain Kris Rix at info@bellevillefd.com or at the clerk's office at city hall. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled.

The City of Belleville is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Brian Loranger
Fire Chief

Publish: April 2, 2015; April 9, 2015; April 16, 2015; April 23, 2015

Belleville DDA Public Notice

City of Belleville

CITY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR DDA DEVELOPMENT AREA CITIZENS COUNCIL

The City of Belleville is looking for volunteers interested in serving on the Belleville Downtown Development Authority Development Area Citizens Council. The Development Citizens Area Council will be established by the City and will consist of nine members, each at least eighteen years of age, residing within the Belleville Downtown Development Authority's Development Area. The Development Area generally includes the Victoria Commons Subdivision and the downtown commercial district of Belleville along Main Street and along First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Streets, High Street north of Edison Avenue and the property between the lake and High Street, South Street north of the railroad right-of-way and the abutting commercial and office properties, the senior citizen housing development south of West Columbia Avenue, West and East Columbia Avenue to the senior housing development, and the Industrial Park area.

The Citizens Council represents the interests of residents living within the Development Area. The Citizens Council is responsible for acting as an advisory body to the City Council and DDA in the development and approval process of development and tax increment financing plans. The Citizens Council will meet with the DDA in reviewing proposed amendments to the development and tax increment financing plans impacting the Development Area. The Citizens Council will provide comments and suggestions about the proposed plan to the City Council.

If you live in the Development Area please consider this opportunity to serve your City by volunteering for a position on the Development Area Citizens Council. DACC volunteers must sign up by April 10, 2015 at the City Clerk's office at City Hall. Members serving on the DACC will be appointed by the Mayor on behalf of the City Council.

Please contact the DDA Administrator, Carol Thompson at (734)646-0504 for further information.

PUBLISH April 2, 2015

Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, April 2 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees' open meeting at 4 p.m. to discuss with the public Visteon bonds and what the township is going to do about it.
- Monday, April 6 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 7 – Van Buren Township regular board meeting, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 8 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 9 – Sumpter Township

Planning Commission, 7 p.m., required meeting.

- Monday, April 13 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., Savage Elementary School
- Tuesday, April 14 – September Days Endowment Committee, 11 a.m. Also, Van Buren Township Recreation Committee, 5:30 p.m. Also, Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library meeting at 7 p.m.

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Sumpter Township Public Notice



Sumpter Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 10, 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Supervisor J. Morgan showing present: Supervisor J. Morgan, Clerk Hoffman, Treasurer Bates, Trustees: Hamm, Oddy, P. Morgan & Swinson. Also present: Attorney Young, Deputy Clerk Hurst and approximately 16 residents.

3. Agenda: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public comments only on agenda items

5. Minutes:

A. Motion by Hamm, supported by P. Morgan to approve regular board meeting minutes of February 24, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by Hamm, supported by Bates to accept minutes of fire department of February 1, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Warrants: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to approve the warrants totaling \$1,273,989.38 roll call vote: Yes: J. Morgan, Hoffman, Bates, Hamm, Oddy, P. Morgan & Swinson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Water & Sewer: Motion by Hoffman, supported by Swinson to approve the water & sewer report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Police: Motion by Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to approve the police report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Building/Ordinance: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Oddy to approve the building/ordinance report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Fire: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve the fire report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Treasurer: Motion by Hoffman, supported by Swinson to approve the treasurers' report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Supervisor: Motion by Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to approve the supervisor's report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Attorney: No report.

14. Board Response

15. Old Business:

A. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to approve the alliance of downriver watersheds 2015 budget and bylaws. Motion carried unanimously.

16. New Business:

A. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve to set a public hearing for the 2015-2016 fiscal year budget for March 24, 2015 at 5:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to approve the first reading of the provisional center zoning ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by Hamm, supported by Swinson to approve RHI Inc. to replace roof on fairgrounds pavilion for \$28,695.00 majority paid by Wayne county parks grant. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve the fire department to purchase equipment from "I am responding for dispatch" with a 5 year contract at a cost not to exceed \$850.00 with installation. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Motion by Hamm, supported by Swinson to approve for multi department training for firefighters June thru August 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

17. Announcements

18. Open Floor

19. Adjournment: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to adjourn at 7:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

CERTIFICATION: I, Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of minutes taken at a Regular Board Meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on March 10, 2015 at 6:30 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be available as required by said act.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

Published: April 2, 2015

Open Arms 2015 Easter Services

Please join us for service
and **FREE EGG HUNT EASTER SUNDAY!**

Palm Sunday	March 29th	9:00am/11:00am
Maundy Thursday	April 2nd	7:00pm
Good Friday	April 3rd	7:00pm
Easter Sunday	April 5th	9:00am
		11:00am Chapel & Egg Hunt

*He is not here;
he has Risen!*

Luke 24:6



7865 Belleville Road
Belleville, MI 48111
734-699-5000

Visit us on the web: www.openarmscenter.com

Thomas White

(continued from page 18)

live in a house on Harris Road in Sumpter Township.

White's landlord tried to get him out earlier, but failed. Judge Green signed a consent order Monday that he must be out by April 10.

She told White's landlord Danny Bye that since April 10 is a Friday, if White isn't out on time Bye couldn't come back to court until after the week end on April 13.

"Come back on Monday. He'll be evicted," Judge Green said.

Bye asked if he could have a walk-through on April 9 to see if there are any damages and Judge Green said he could work that out with White.

He said he just started a job and lost it when he told them he had to go to court. He said he starts another job on April 6 and doesn't want to have to come back to court.

"I really need it the 10th," Bye said, referring to his house.

White pointed out that Bye was holding the \$1,700 security deposit White paid. White said he paid his rent on Feb. 12 and so he was good until March 12. Bye can take the \$1,200 rent owed out of the security deposit and, "There's going to be a water bill."

Bye said there will be at least one water bill.

Judge Green said it was on the record from the last court session that White could use the security deposit for the rent. She told Bye he should list the things he is deducting from the security deposit and if there's damage to come back to court for an order.

White said he didn't know if there were any damages.

Huron Sportsman's Club

19835 Sterling Street
New Boston, MI 48164

FISH FRY

Friday, April 3, 2015

5pm - 9pm

\$11 per person

Fish - All You Can Eat!

French Fries, Coleslaw

Beverages Available

huron.sportsmans@yahoo.com

Facebook - Huron Sportsman's Association

More Letters

Willing to work together to find a better solution

To the Editor:

I'm not wishing to sound callous or condescending in my reply to the article in the March 26th edition of the *Independent* that was submitted by an anonymous resident of Van Buren Township who declined to sign their name out of "fear of safety." I myself am a veteran and would offer to defend anyone who is threatened for expressing his or her right to an opinion in your paper or anywhere else in America.

Yes, I do have my own understanding of what is causing the anger that is associated with compensating the "blended rate" (dual proficient) police and fire department personnel. I clearly indicated that I don't like the fact that this is the manner in which we have to compensate our Public Safety Department officers, but it is in compliance with a particular labor law decision that the township must abide by until a better solution can be found.

Not to be redundant, I wish to clarify one important fact that seems to be continually overlooked in this particular instance. The wage that was reported in the *Independent*, for the Public Safety officer in question, was two-fold: \$96,247.31 as a police Department Lieutenant and \$71,049.40 in wage compensation for his "blended rate proficiency" as a Captain in the Fire Department. This person is not a front-line police officer or fire fighter, but rather a command officer in both departments, and he is therefore compensated at a higher rate than a typical beat patrolman or standard fire fighter.

The negotiated VB Township / union collective bargaining agreement also provides benefits to this individual that was reported to be valued at \$48,282.95. If this seems excessive and totally unacceptable I would only offer the alternative for consideration.

What would it cost us taxpayers to hire a full-time Fire Department Captain with commensurate wages and compatible benefits? It would certainly be significantly more than this individual was scrutinized and criticized for. Now, in the spirit of conciliation, I would offer to sit down with any number of taxpayers in this community to collectively work to find a better solution to this predicament. I won't resort to name-calling or false insinuations since this neither helps find a solution or recognizes the legitimate arguments of others. Much of what was printed in the article "Legacy costs detrimental to Van Buren Township" was apparently laced with much innuendo and obvious assumptions. Otherwise, the person would have gladly submitted their name for publishing.

Thank you for the opportunity to willingly submit my name,
Cejay Marshall, Van Buren Township
Retired Lifetime Member of CWA
Former Chief Union Steward
Local 4009 Southfield, MI

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46888 REEDGRASS, VAN BUREN
LIVE THE SPOILED LIFE in this beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Large master bedroom with master bath and large closet, open family room with fireplace, dining area, attractive kitchen and large laundry room. Attached garage, deck and walking distance to Van Buren Township Hall with many senior, aerobic, dance and other activities. Just Listed only \$109,900.



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A FAVORITE OF ALL Who See It! Outstanding three bedroom, Two and One Half Bath Brick Colonial. Open Family Room, Larger Master Bedroom & Premium Master Bath and Updated Kitchen. Expansive Living Room-Dining Area and Full Basement. An open rear yard finds a deep green lawn - Manicured Salon Style. Offering a Measureless Value. \$184,900



9019 COGSWELL, ROMULUS
WAKE UP TO EXCITEMENT EVERY MORNING in this 4,900 sf masterpiece. Only the finest of construction with 4 large bedrooms, 3 full and 2 half baths, 2 fireplaces, marble floors, 2 master bedrooms with Jacuzzis, finished basement, 2 bars, 3 car attached and 2 car detached garages. On 4 manicured acres. This home is one of the finest in style and quality. \$499,900.



19350 SUMPTER RD, SUMPTER TWP
GREAT LOCATION with little competition. 4,100+ square foot set up for a bar/restaurant or pizzeria. Most equipment could be included. Looks great and shows even better. Plenty of parking on 2+ acres. A Best Buy investment property at only \$387,000



991 E HURON RIVER DR, VAN BUREN
MULTIPLES OF VALUE ARE PRESENT IN This Larger 1,571 Sq Ft Custom Built 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath Home. Featuring Open Kitchen-Dining-Living Room, Gas Fireplace in Family Room, 90+ Furnace, Deck, Shed, 2 1/2 Car Attached Garage on .92 Acre Parcel. This is One Wins the I Love Clean Contest! \$159,900.

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25817 SUMPTER RD .97 ACRES \$20,000
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375 & 377 CHARLES, BELLEVILLE
GREAT INCOME PROPERTY In the City of Belleville. This duplex has a great rental history and is walking distance to Belleville Lake and the downtown. One unit has 2 bedrooms, one bath and 900 sq feet the other has 1 bedroom, 1 bath and 700 sq feet. Private entrances, privacy fence and large yard. Listed at \$124,900.



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